

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In Re Application of:	)	"Express Mail" Mailing Label No. <u>EV 321715292</u>
Shunpei YAMAZAKI	)	Date of Deposit <u>November 12, 2003</u>
Serial No.: Not Assigned	)	I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
Filed: Herewith	)	deposited with the United States Postal Service
Art Unit:	)	"Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service
For: THERMAL TREATMENT EQUIPMENT AND	)	under 37 CFR1.10 on the date indicated above
METHOD FOR HEAT-TREATING	)	and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents,
	)	P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
	)	Name: <u>ARMANDO CHUNG</u>
	)	(typed or printed)
	)	Signature <u><i>Armando Chung</i></u>

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, as revised on February 4, 1992, 1135 OG 23-24, Applicant hereby calls the Examiner's attention to documents listed on the attached form, which documents may be material to the examination of this application. A copy of each of the references was submitted to the Patent Office or was cited by the Examiner in the parent application, Serial No. 10/156,873, filed May 29, 2002, which is being relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120 (37 C.F.R. §1.98(d)).

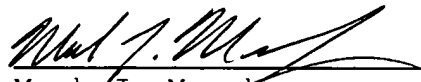
No inference should be drawn that the attached list sets forth a comprehensive investigation of the prior art, that any or all are pertinent to the invention, or that any apparatus disclosed is equivalent to the subject invention.

The citation of the above-discussed documents is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence. Citation of any document herein is not to be construed as an admission that any subject matter disclosed in the document is necessarily within the inventive field of endeavor, that any disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that any disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention.

Applicant also respectfully reserves the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosure of those documents discussed herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the instant patent application.

A first office action, notice of allowance or issue fee notification has not been received in this case, so applicant does not believe that a fee is due. However, if any such fee is required, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50/1039.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Mark J. Murphy  
Registration No: 34,225

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LIST OF PUBLICATIONS CITED BY APPLICANT	<u>Atty. Docket No.</u> 0553-0322.01	<u>Serial No.</u> Not Assigned
	<u>Applicant</u> Shunpei YAMAZAKI	
	<u>Filing Date</u> Herewith	<u>Group</u>

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE
	5,997,286	12/1999	Hemsath et al	432	59	
	6,310,327	10/2001	Moore et al	219	405	
	6,427,462	08/2002	Suenaga et al	62	185	
	US 2002/ 0134530 A1	09/2002	Giacobbe	165	58	
	6,474,986	11/2002	Oda et al	432	247	
	US 2002/ 0179283	12/2002	Suenaga et al	165	58	
	6,512,206	01/2003	McEntire et al	219	58	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	English Abstract	English Trans.	FILING DATE
	JP 6-151414	05/31/94	Nippon Telegr. & Teleph. Corp.	X		11/02/92
	JP 10-55951	02/24/98	Sony Corp.	X		08/12/96
	JP 2000- 105081	04/11/00	Kanto Yakin Kogyo KK	X		09/25/98

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS  
(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages)

	1) U.S. Patent Application No. 10/098,688 (pending) to Yamazaki et al, filed March 15, 2002 including specification, abstract, claims, drawings and PTO filing receipt..
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EXAMINER:	DATE CONSIDERED:
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP form. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with the next communication to applicant.

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Name: ARMANDO CHING  
(typed or printed)

Signature Armando Ching

APPOINTMENT OF ASSOCIATE ATTORNEYS

Sir:

Please recognize the following as my associate attorneys in  
the above captioned application:

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